



# GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

September 2001

## Hite Marina Area Development Concept Plan/Environmental Assessment

In January of 2001, the National Park Service initiated work on a Development Concept Plan (DCP)/Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Hite Marina Area. The original DCP for this area was prepared in 1982 and this plan has become outdated. Much of the proposed development from that plan has been accomplished, or is in need of review to reflect current visitation levels and facility needs. A new DCP is needed to guide future development of services, facilities and infrastructure for the next 10+ years.

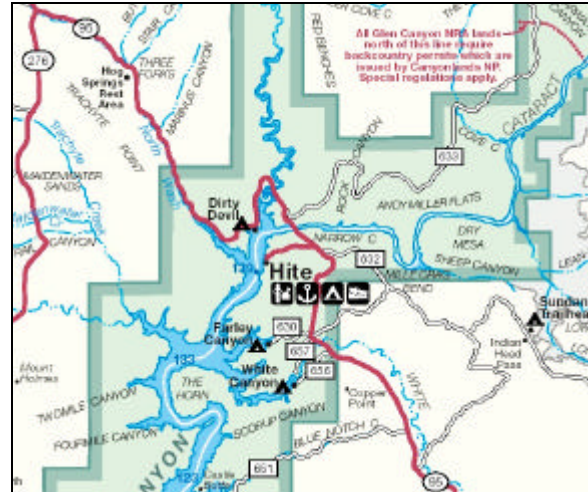
## Background

Hite lies near the extreme upper end of Lake Powell in San Juan County, Utah. Access to the area is provided by Utah Highway 95, which extends to Hanksville on the north and Blanding on the east. Hite is one of the more remote developed locations on the lake and facility development is less intensive than at other major use areas such as Wahweap. Many visitors report a preference for the more rustic qualities that distinguish Hite from other developed areas.

Visitation at Hite is concentrated during the period May through September, when more than 70% of total annual visitation occurs. Although no visitor survey data specific to the Hite area is available, the great majority of visitors spend the night either on board a boat or in a shoreline camp. Approximately 75% of visitors to Lake Powell stay 3-7 days (NPS, 1994). Facilities currently provided in the Hite area include a marina, boat ramp, and primitive campground with undesignated sites. Most campers, however, camp along the shoreline at locations where no improvements have been made and no facilities are provided.

In addition to lake oriented activities, Hite

serves as a major take-out point for visitors who raft the Colorado River through Canyonlands National Park and Cataract Canyon.



## Site Issues

Given its location near the upper end of the reservoir where the Colorado and Dirty Devil Rivers enter, the Hite area receives a large amount of sediment deposition. A recent study (2001) indicates that sediment deposition is likely to reach a level within the next 35 to 40 years that will require modification of the boat ramp or other measures to keep the area usable for boats.

Another important site consideration is the limited amount of usable area. Much of the Hite area is constrained by steep slopes and rock outcrops.

## Overview of Process/Schedule

The overall planning process is anticipated to extend over a period of approximately 16 months. Project milestones include:

- Project Initiation: January 2001
- Data Collection and Studies: Feb-Aug 2001
- Public Scoping Period: Fall 2001
- Draft DCP/EA: December 2001
- Public Review of Draft DCP/EA: Jan-Feb 2002
- DCP/EA Adopted: April 2002

## Issues Identified to Date

Informal public comments and discussions among the planning team have identified the following issues:

- ✍ Congestion during high visitation days at the boat ramp and marina area, including circulation problems and a lack of parking.
- ✍ A lack of adequate housing for NPS and other staff.
- ✍ A need for expanded services and facilities, including day use areas, improved camping opportunities, and lodging.
- ✍ Sediment deposition and the need to consider the long-term usable life of the Hite area.
- ✍ Consideration of White and Farley Canyons. Are additional facilities or site improvements needed at these locations?

## Preliminary Alternatives

In addition to the no action alternative, several preliminary alternatives have been developed to date. Key elements of these alternatives are summarized below. With all alternatives, informal shoreline camping would continue.

Project Element	Limited New Development	Moderate New Development	Major New Development
<b>Campground</b>	Upgrade current location, provide designated sites (25 units).	New campground at a new location with designated spurs, potable water, and dump station (27 units).	New campground at new location with designated RV spurs, potable water & sewer hookups at each spur, dump station (54 units).
<b>Boat Ramp Area</b>	? Construct separate ramp for raft use. ? Expand parking, 70 cars and 180 rv's/trailers.	? Construct separate ramp for raft use. ? Expand parking, 70 cars and 180 rv's/trailers.	? Construct separate ramp for raft use. ? Expand parking, 110 cars & 245 rv's/trailers.
<b>Marina Area</b>	? Expand parking at houseboat loading & unloading area. ? Construct courtesy and concession docks, expand breakwater.	? Expand parking at houseboat loading & unloading area. ? Construct courtesy and concession docks, expand breakwater. ? Expand buoy quantities.	? Expand parking at houseboat loading & unloading area. ? Construct courtesy and concession docks, expand breakwater. ? Expand buoy quantities.
<b>Dry Boat Storage</b>	Expand at current location.	Expand at current location.	Expand at current location.
<b>Rental Lodging</b>	No action; 5 existing units remain.	Construct 20 new housekeeping units and small café/restaurant.	Construct 30 new housekeeping units and small café/restaurant.
<b>Shower/Laundry Facility</b>	No action.	Construct new shower and laundry facility.	Construct new shower and laundry facility.
<b>Store</b>	Remodel store at existing location.	Construct new, larger store at existing site.	Construct new, larger store at new site.

**We want your comments!** Anyone interested in this planning effort is encouraged to visit the project web page at <http://www.nps.gov/glca/hitepl.htm>, which will contain information on current project activities and status as well as a comment form. Comments can also be emailed to [GLCA\\_HiteDCP@nps.gov](mailto:GLCA_HiteDCP@nps.gov), or you may return the attached comment form to:

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Glen Canyon National Recreation Area  
P.O. Box 1507  
Page, Arizona 86040  
Attn: Suzy Schulman, Environmental Specialist